

17 March 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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Senator Smathers called me on Friday afternoon, 17 March, regarding [redacted] of Fort Worth, Texas. The Senator said that he had spoken to the President, the Vice President, the Secretary of the Navy, and Kenneth O'Donnell about [redacted] and found that [redacted] was well known to the Vice President (who offered to call the Director in [redacted] behalf), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Navy. Senator Smathers said that [redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted] was well suited to work for CIA and would be a distinct asset to some of the things in which we are now engaged. He urged us to seek the opinions of the Vice President, the Secretaries of the Navy and Defense, and Mr. Hoover on [redacted]'s qualifications and all-around suitability.

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Senator Smathers made it clear that he did not want [redacted] to come to Washington for an interview unless we had something definitely in mind for him. He remarked that it would be a waste of [redacted] and our time to see him here just to be polite.

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I told the Senator that I would like a little time to discuss this with the Director and others in the Agency and would be in touch with him early next week. Senator Smathers said this was fine with him since he was leaving for Florida this afternoon and would not return until late Tuesday. He asked that I personally call him Wednesday and again repeated he could not too highly recommend [redacted] to us. He also added that both the Secretaries of Defense and Navy had indicated an interest in finding a place for [redacted] but he had squelched this since [redacted] wanted to "get back into cloak and dagger operations."

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